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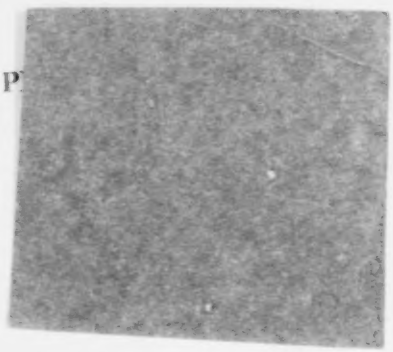
Vienna, November 1997
Item 7 of the provisional agenda



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY

Note by the Director-General

1. As stated in the revised provisional agenda (IDB.18/1/Rev.1), the inclusion of a supplementary item has been proposed by the Permanent Representative of Italy to UNIDO in accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Board. The supporting statement is contained in the letters dated 11 and 29 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the President of the Board, Mr. I. Posta (Hungary), provided in the annex to the present document.

2. As requested by the Permanent Representative of Italy, a document on the issue will be submitted to the Board at its resumed eighteenth session.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.

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Annex

LETTERS FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Permanent Representative of Italy
to the International Organizations
Hoher Markt 8-9
1010 Vienna

Vienna, 11 August 1997

Excellency,

I have the honour to present, on behalf of the Italian Government, a formal request regarding the introduction of a new item within the provisional Agenda of the next Industrial Development Board as contained in document IDB.18/1.

On 11 March 1997 the Permanent Representative of Italy to UNIDO handed to the Director-General of UNIDO, Mr. Mauricio de Maria y Campos, a letter from the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lamberto Dini, concerning the Italian Government's will to change the status of the International Centre for Science and High Technologies (ICS) based in Trieste, at present included in the UNIDO framework.

In that letter Minister Dini expressed the intention to put the International Centre for Science and High Technologies (ICS) of Trieste under the aegis of UNESCO in order to create a unique scientific pole in Trieste which will include also the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), also based in Trieste and which is working under the responsibility of UNESCO.

The Italian Government is convinced that by this transfer a greater harmonization of Institutions of the Trieste scientific pole could be achieved. At the same time, this harmonization in the framework of UNESCO would allow the conditions in the Trieste area for a successful integration between training and research activities in the interest of developing countries.

In this regard I wish to underline that this proposal should not be taken however as implying an unfavourable evaluation of UNIDO management; it is solely based upon and moved by criteria of efficiency and harmonization with similar Institutions which are already operating within UNESCO.

For this reason, the Italian Government, through you, asks the Director-General of UNIDO to kindly produce a working paper on this issue to be discussed during the resumed session of the next IDB indicating the present situation, the Italian position on this matter and any other useful elements.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Vincenzo Manno

H.E. Ambassador Istvan Posta
President of the Industrial Development Board
UNIDO—Vienna

cc: Mr. Mauricio de Maria y Campos
Director-General
UNIDO—VIENNA

The Permanent Representative of Italy
to the International Organizations
Hoher Markt 8-9
1010 Vienna

Vienna, 29 August 1997

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 29 August 1997 concerning the introduction of a new item in the Provisional Agenda of the XVIII Session of the Industrial Development Board, regarding the International Centre for Science and High Technology (ICS).

As I had the pleasure to explain to you in my letter of 11 August, a letter was sent on 26 February by the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lamberto Dini, and handed to the Director-General of UNIDO on 11 March, concerning the Italian Government's will to change the status of the above-mentioned Centre, at present included in the UNIDO framework.

In these two letters are clearly stated the reasons for this changing and I have to underline the urgency of this matter in the light of the need for an harmonization of the activities carried out by the scientific institutions based in Trieste. Such decision has been taken by the Italian Government in order to improve their synergies and efficiency through the establishment of a unique scientific pole under the aegis of UNESCO. Besides, this decision is also in line with the Business Plan which states that activities relating to High Technologies are to be abandoned.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Vincenzo Manno

H.E. Istvan Posta
President
XVIII Session of IDB
UNIDO—Vienna